

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3736

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-32 (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) A sampling system, comprising:

a test strip configured for loading into a lancing device to analyze body fluid from an incision created by the lancing device, wherein the test strip has a strip shape, wherein the test strip has a first end and a second end opposite the first end, the test strip includes an end edge at the second end, the test strip including

a test area configured to analyze the body fluid,

a sampling passageway with an inlet opening that is remotely located from the test area, the inlet opening being defined in the end edge at the second end, the sampling passageway being sized and configured to draw the body fluid via capillary action, the sampling passageway extending from the inlet opening to the test area for transporting the body fluid from the incision to the test area via capillary action,

a bottom surface that faces the skin when the test strip is received in the lancing device, and

a sealing member projecting outwardly from the bottom surface of the test strip proximal the inlet opening and positioned to seal with the skin when the test strip is pressed against the skin to retain the body fluid at the inlet opening, wherein the sealing member is located on the bottom surface between the first end and the end edge at the second end, wherein the sealing member is made of deformable material that deforms upon pressing against the skin, wherein the sealing member extends along the bottom surface at a location where the sealing member is sandwiched between the bottom surface of the test strip and the skin when the test strip is pressed against the skin to inhibit flow of the body fluid between the bottom surface of the test strip and the skin;

wherein the test strip with the sealing member is configured to be unloaded from the lancing device as a single disposable unit; and

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wherein the sealing member has a surface that is hydrophobic.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 48, wherein:
the test strip defines an aperture;
the lancet is positioned to extend through the aperture in the test strip during lancing;
the inlet opening communicates with the aperture; and
the sealing member surrounds the aperture on the bottom surface of the test strip.

36. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 35, wherein:
the test strip has a recessed surface extending between the inlet opening and the bottom surface; and
the recessed surface has a frustoconical shape.

Claims 37-38 (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 33, wherein the test strip has a recessed surface extending between the inlet opening and the bottom surface.

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40. (Currently amended) A sampling system, comprising:
- a test strip configured for loading into a lancing device to analyze body fluid from an incision created by the lancing device, wherein the test strip has strip shape, wherein the test strip has a first end and a second end opposite the first end, the test strip includes an end edge at the second end, the test strip including
- a test area configured to analyze the body fluid,
- a sampling passageway with an inlet opening that is remotely located from the test area, the inlet opening being defined in the end edge at the second end, the sampling passageway being sized and configured to draw the body fluid via capillary action, the sampling passageway extending from the inlet opening to the test area for transporting the body fluid from the incision to the test area via capillary action,
- a bottom surface that faces the skin when the test strip is received in the lancing device, and
- the test strip having a recessed surface extending between the inlet opening and the bottom surface to inhibit contact of the body fluid on the skin with the bottom surface of the test strip, wherein the recessed surface tapers away from the inlet opening at the end edge to the bottom surface, wherein the recessed surface extends from the end edge at the second end towards the first end, wherein the recessed surface at the end edge with the inlet opening is located farther away from the skin than the recessed surface at the bottom surface during drawing of the body fluid from the incision; and
- wherein the test strip with the recessed surface is configured to be unloaded from the lancing device as a single disposable unit.

41. (Canceled).

42. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 57, wherein:

the test strip defines an aperture;

the lancet is positioned to extend through the aperture in the test strip during lancing;

the inlet opening communicates with the aperture; and

the recessed surface has a frustoconical shape.

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Claims 43-47 (Canceled)

48. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 33, further comprising:
the lancing device including a housing and a lancet driver with a lancet disposed in the housing for lancing the incision in skin, the housing including a skin contacting surface where the lancing device contacts the skin during lancing.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, wherein:
the test strip includes a top surface positioned opposite the bottom surface; and
the test area includes an opening that is open at the top surface of the test strip to permit reflectance of light for optical analysis.

50. (Previously presented) The system of claim 33, wherein:
the test strip includes a top surface positioned opposite the bottom surface; and
at least a portion of the top surface is hydrophobic to resist flow of the body fluid along the top surface.

51. (Previously presented) The system of claim 33, wherein at least a portion of the bottom surface is hydrophobic.

52. (Canceled).

53. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 39, wherein the recessed surface extends at an obtuse angle from the bottom surface to the inlet opening.

54. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 53, wherein the obtuse angle is from about 100 degrees to about 150 degrees.

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55. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 33, wherein:
the test strip has an end edge; and
the inlet opening communicates with the end edge at a location spaced from the bottom surface.

56. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 55, wherein the test strip further includes first and second side edges extending from the end edge, the sealing member extending from the first side edge to the second side edge.

57. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 40, further comprising:
the lancing device including a housing and a lancet driver with a lancet disposed in the housing for lancing the incision in skin, the housing including a skin contacting surface where the lancing device contacts the skin during lancing.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein:
the test strip includes a top surface positioned opposite the bottom surface; and
the test area includes an opening that is open at the top surface of the test strip.

59. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40, wherein:
the test strip includes a top surface positioned opposite the bottom surface; and
at least a portion of the top surface is hydrophobic to resist flow of the body fluid along the top surface.

60. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40, wherein at least a portion of the bottom surface is hydrophobic.

61. (Previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the recessed surface is hydrophobic.

62. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 40, wherein the recessed surface extends at an obtuse angle from the bottom surface to the inlet opening.

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63. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 61, wherein the obtuse angle is from about 100 degrees to about 150 degrees.

64. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the sealing member extends in a linear manner across the bottom surface.

65. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the inlet opening is hydrophilic.

66. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the recessed surface is hydrophobic and the inlet opening is hydrophilic.

67. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the test strip at the inlet opening is thinner than at the bottom surface.